



# SHELBYVILLE ROTARY CLUB

Volume II, Issue I

January 2012

Contribute to the newsletter! Committee news, club news, member news, thank you notes and photographs are welcome. Please send submissions to Erin Ratliff (erin@erinratliff.com) or K.C. Crahan (KC@crahanwealthmanagement.com).

### Inside this issue:

'Peace Through Service' is 2012-13 RI theme	2
Happy Birthday	2
Rotary clubs worldwide meet challenge (cont.)	3
Annual Rotary Dinner and Auction	3
Rotary celebrates India's first polio-free year (cont.)	4

## Rotary clubs worldwide meet US\$200 million fundraising challenge

Rotary International News

17 January 2012

Rotary International has succeeded in meeting the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's US\$200 million match in funding for polio eradication, raising more than \$202.6 million as of 17 January.

"We'll celebrate this milestone, but it doesn't mean that we'll stop raising money or spreading the word about polio eradication," Rotary Foundation Trustee John F. Germ told Rotary leaders at the International As-

sembly in San Diego, California, USA. "We can't stop until our entire world is certified as polio-free."

The fundraising milestone was reached in response to \$355 million in challenge grants awarded to The Rotary Foundation by the Gates Foundation. All funds have been earmarked to support polio immunization activities in affected countries where the vaccine-preventable disease continues to paralyze children.

"In recognition of Rotary's great work, and to inspire Rotarians in the future, the [Gates] foun-

dation is committing an additional \$50 million to extend our partnership," said Jeff Raikes, chief executive officer of the Gates Foundation. "Rotary started the global fight against polio, and continues to set the tone for private fundraising, grassroots engagement, and maintaining polio at the top of the agenda with key policymakers." Raikes also addressed Rotary leaders at the International Assembly.

The new \$50 million grant from the Gates Foundation is not a challenge grant.

*Continued on page 3*

## Rotary celebrates India's first polio-free year

Rotary club members worldwide are cautiously celebrating a major milestone in the global effort to eradicate polio. India, until recently an epicenter of the wild poliovirus, has gone one year without recording a new case of the crippling, sometimes fatal, disease. India's last re-

ported case was a two-year-old girl in West Bengal State on 13 January 2011. The country recorded 42 cases in 2010, and 741 in 2009. A chief factor in India's success has been the widespread use of the bivalent oral polio vaccine, which is effective against both remaining types of

the poliovirus. Another has been rigorous monitoring, which has helped reduce the number of children missed by health workers during National Immunization Days to less than 1 percent, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

*Continued on page 4*

# 'Peace Through Service' is 2012-13 RI theme

By Megan Ferringer and Arnold R. Grahl  
Rotary International News -- 16  
January 2012

RI President-elect Sakuji Tanaka will ask Rotarians to build *Peace Through Service* in 2012-13.

Tanaka unveiled the RI theme during the opening plenary session of the 2012 International Assembly, a training event for incoming Rotary district governors.

"Peace, in all of the ways that we can understand it, is a real goal and a realistic goal for Rotary," he said. "Peace is not something that can only be achieved through agreements, by governments, or through heroic struggles. It is something that we can find and that we can achieve, every day and in many simple ways."

Peace has different meanings for different people, Tanaka said.

"No definition is right, and no def-

inition is wrong," he said. "However we use the word, this is what peace means for us.

"No matter how we use, or understand the word, Rotary can help us to achieve it," he added.

Tanaka, a businessman from the greater Tokyo metropolitan area, shared how becoming a Rotarian broadened his understanding of the world. After joining the Rotary Club of Yashio, in 1975, he said, he began to realize that his life's purpose was not to make more money, but to be useful to other people.

"I realized that by helping others, even in the simplest of ways, I could help to build peace," Tanaka said.

He noted that the Japanese tradition of putting the needs of society above the needs of the individual helped his country rebuild after the tsunami and earthquake in March.

"This is a lesson that I think the whole world can learn from, in a

positive way. When we see the needs of others as more important than our own needs -- when we focus our energies on a shared goal that is for the good of all -- this changes everything," he said. "It changes our priorities in a completely fundamental way. And it changes how we understand the idea of peace."

Tanaka will ask Rotarians to focus their energy on supporting the three priorities of the RI Strategic Plan, he said. He added that he will ask the incoming leaders to promote three Rotary peace forums, to be held in Hiroshima, Japan; Berlin; and Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

"In Rotary, our business is not profit. Our business is peace," he said. "Our reward is not financial, but the happiness and satisfaction of seeing a better, more peaceful world, one that we have achieved through our own efforts."

## Happy Birthday!

Please join us in wishing the following members happy birthday this month:

John David Myles

Steve Wright

Karen Arnold

Lani Bassberg



# Rotary clubs worldwide meet US\$200 million fundraising challenge

(Continued from page 1)

Since 1988, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99 percent, from about 350,000 cases annually to fewer than 650 cases reported so far for 2011. The wild poliovirus is now endemic in only four countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. However, India on 13 January marked a full calendar year without a case, paving the way for its removal from the endemic list.

But other countries also remain at risk for polio cases imported from the endemic countries. In Africa in 2011, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo had significant outbreaks. Also in 2011, a small cluster of polio cases in China, which had been polio-free for a decade, was traced to Pakistan.

Rotary club members not only reached into their own pockets to

support the Gates challenge, but also engaged their communities in a variety of creative fundraising projects, such as a fashion show in California that raised \$52,000, benefit film screenings in New Zealand and Australia that netted \$54,000, and a pledge-supported hike through Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, that brought in \$38,000. Many events were planned around 24 October, widely observed as World Polio Day.

To date, Rotarians worldwide have contributed more than \$1 billion toward the eradication of polio, a cause Rotary took on in 1985. In 1988, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention joined Rotary as spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. More recently, the Gates

Foundation has become a major supporter. In 2007, the Gates Foundation gave Rotary a \$100 million challenge grant for polio eradication, increasing it to \$355 million in 2009. Rotary agreed to raise \$200 million in matching funds by 30 June 2012.

Reaching children with the oral polio vaccine in the disease's remaining strongholds is labor- and resource-intensive due to a host of challenges, including poor infrastructure, geographical isolation, armed conflict, and cultural misunderstanding about the eradication campaign.

For more information, please visit [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

## Annual Rotary Dinner and Auction

As you should know by now, the Shelbyville Rotary Club's annual dinner and auction is next month. This is our largest fundraiser of the year.

Please save the date:

**Saturday, February 25, 2012**

**Claudia Sanders Dinner House**

**Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m.**

If you haven't already, please start seeking donations as soon as possible. Please remember that every member is responsible for the sale of eight tickets to the dinner. You can get your tickets from Sherman Riggs.

Please help us to make this year a success!

Shelbyville Rotary Club  
500 Main Street, Suite 5  
Shelbyville, KY 40065

Meetings are held every Tuesday at 12:00 p.m. at Centenary United Methodist Church, 429 Main Street, Shelbyville, Kentucky.



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## Rotary celebrates India's first polio-free year (Continued from page 1)

Rotary has been a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative since 1988, along with WHO, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is also a key supporter of the initiative.

"The achievement of a polio-free India for a full year is a significant step towards a polio-free world -- an example as to what can be accomplished no matter what problems need to be overcome," says Robert S. Scott, chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee. "Rotarians of India are and should be proud of the key efforts they have made at all levels, without which the world would not be marking this milestone."

Deepak Kapur, chair of the India PolioPlus Committee, also credits the Indian Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare for its commitment to ending polio. To date, the Indian government has spent more than US\$1.2 billion on domestic polio eradication activities. "Government support is crucial if we are to defeat polio, and we are fortunate that our government is our biggest advocate in this effort," Kapur says.

"Marching ahead, the goal is to sustain this momentum," he adds, describing as potentially "decisive" the upcoming immunization rounds this month and in February and March.

If all ongoing testing for polio cases recorded through 13 January continues to yield negative results, WHO will declare that India has interrupted transmission of indigenous wild poliovirus, laying the groundwork for its removal from the polio-endemic countries list, which also includes Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria. However, be-

cause non-endemic countries remain at risk for cases imported from endemic countries, immunizations in India and other endemic and at-risk countries must continue. Neighboring Pakistan, which has reported 189 cases so far for 2011, is a major threat to India's continued polio-free status. Last year, an outbreak in China, which had been polio-free for a decade, was traced genetically to Pakistan.

"As an Indian, I am immensely proud of what Rotary has accomplished," Banerjee says. "However, we know this is not the end of our work. Rotary and our partners must continue to immunize children in India and in other countries until the goal of a polio-free world is finally achieved."

By Dan Nixon and Wayne Hearn  
Rotary International News -- 12 January 2012